



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

5 JANUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Oakland – Sheriff's Office Recruit, Set to Graduate Next Month, Dies in Freeway Shooting

(U) An Alameda County Sheriff's Office recruit was killed in a freeway shooting yesterday as he drove home from work, authorities said. The recruit was on westbound Interstate 580 near the Oakland Toll Plaza to the Bay Bridge when someone fired a gun into his personal vehicle, causing him to crash. He was taken to a hospital, where he died. The recruit was set to graduate from the academy in February. The killing comes after a fatal November freeway shooting in the same area. No arrests have been made and no description of a suspect has been shared. The motive in the shooting remains unclear.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [NBC News](#)

(U) San Diego – Real Estate Agent Sentenced for Multi-Million-Dollar Ponzi Schemes

(U) Alexander Avergoon, a San Diego real estate agent and businessman, was sentenced in federal court yesterday to 64 months in prison for defrauding investors in several Ponzi real estate investment schemes. Avergoon also admitted to participating in multiple tax evasion and fraud schemes with Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, former director at Chabad of Poway. Avergoon pleaded guilty in July 2020, admitting that from 2010 to 2015, he and Goldstein recruited individuals to make fraudulent "donations" to the Chabad. He also admitted that he joined Rabbi Goldstein in a grant fraud scam in which they obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in misappropriated grant funds, and a government benefits fraud scheme involving shell companies. Avergoon was ordered to pay nearly ten million in restitution.

SOURCE: 3 January 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Authorities Seize \$4.7M Worth of Meth Found Hidden in Water Tanks

(U) Kleberg – Texas Department of Public Safety agents seized 54-pounds of methamphetamine hidden inside water tanks in Kleberg County near Kingsville. The 54-pounds of methamphetamine have an estimated street value of over \$4.7 million. Since 30 December 2021, the DPS has seized over 12,000 pounds of methamphetamine as part of Operation Lone Star.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [KHOU 11](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – DEA Busts Drug Ring Tied to Sinaloa Cartel

(U) Denver – An eight-month long DEA operation led to the seizure of 110,000 fake prescription pills laced with fentanyl. According to DEA reports, the pills originated from Mexico and are reportedly tied to the Sinaloa Cartel. Authorities also seized 13 pounds of meth, 17 pounds of heroin, 24 pounds of cocaine, and \$450,000. In addition, investigators found 28 firearms, multiple hand grenades, high-capacity magazines, and several sets of body armor. Following the seizure, 19 individuals were indicted and ten were arrested in the Denver area.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [News4SA](#)

(U) Florida – Hackers Breach Health Care System, Potentially Exposing Data on 1.3M Customers

(U) Broward – Hackers breached the computer networks of a southeast Florida health care system in October and may have accessed sensitive personal and financial information on over 1.3 million people, the health care system announced this week. Social Security numbers, patient medical history and bank account information are among the data that have been exposed in the breach of Broward Health, a network of over 30 health care facilities serving patients across the roughly 2-million-person county. The incident reportedly did not involve ransomware.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [CNN](#)

(U) Florida – US Charges Colombian National in Plot to Kill Haitian President

(U) Miami – US authorities arrested a Colombian national suspected of taking part in the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse at his home in Port-au-Prince last year, the Justice Department said in a statement yesterday. According to the recently unsealed criminal complaint, Mario Antonio Palacios was detained during a layover in Panama after he was deported from Jamaica. The former Colombian military officer was charged with conspiracy to commit murder or kidnapping outside the US and providing material support resulting in death, knowing that such support would be used to carry out the conspiracy to kill or kidnap. Palacios is the first to face US charges for the conspiracy and he faces a possible life sentence.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [US DOJ Washington Post](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Ex-GlaxoSmithKline Scientist Admits Stealing Trade Secrets for Chinese Company

(U) Philadelphia – A former GlaxoSmithKline Plc scientist plead guilty Monday for conspiring to steal trade secrets from the British drug manufacturer, from 2012-2016, to benefit a Chinese pharmaceutical company. Lucy Xi entered her plea in Philadelphia federal court, becoming the fourth person to admit to wrongdoing in connection with a scheme to misuse GSK's trade secrets to benefit Renopharma, which received financial support from the Chinese government. Xi is scheduled for sentencing on 12 April.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Texas – Authorities Seize \$1M In Fentanyl-Laced Pills During Operation Spanning Four US States

(U) Cedar Park – The Cedar Park Police Department issued 13 indictments and arrested ten people suspected of selling drugs laced with fentanyl, seizing over 100,000 counterfeit oxycodone pills with a street value of \$1 million, according to reports. The department says gathered information over two years from 13 overdoses and nine fatalities, which led their investigation to Arizona, Oregon, California, and Texas. The ten suspects arrested so far are charged with conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute. Other agencies such as the DHS, the USPS, the FBI and then DEA were also part of the investigation. The DEA believes the drugs originated in Mexico.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [Border Report](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Canada – Hackers Interrupt Briefing by Lawyers for Those Killed in Airliner Downed by Iran

(U) Ottawa – Yesterday, hackers interrupted a video briefing by lawyers for relatives of those who died when Iran shot down a Ukrainian airliner. The briefing was held after a Canadian court this week awarded \$84 million to the families of six people who died when Iranian Revolutionary Guards downed the jet near Tehran two years ago. The interference started shortly after one of the lawyers directly referenced Iran. The hackers began playing clips of loud music and showing sometimes violent images for more than two minutes. The lawyers ended the Zoom call and restarted it without further incident. No one has claimed responsibility.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Iraq – Security Forces Arrest Two ISIS Members in Charge Of Group Funds

(U) Kirkuk – Two Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) members who managed the terrorist group's finances were arrested in southern Kirkuk, according to Iraqi authorities. The two also used social media platforms for recruitment and posted "lectures" on manufacturing explosive materials and devices.

SOURCE: 4 January 2022, [Rudaw](#)

(U) Syria – Syrian Defense Forces Arrest Islamic State Leader in Markada

(U) Markada – The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) captured an ISIS leader in Markada, located in northeastern Hasakah province, the SDF press office announced. Authorities believe the individual is responsible for planning assassinations and manufacturing IEDs and booby traps targeting military and security patrols. During the arrest, authorities reportedly seized equipment, weapons, ammunition, and documents.

SOURCE: 5 January 2022, [Kurdistan 24](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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